O.S. JFK

CREDITS run in counterpoint through a 7-10 minute sequence of DOCUMENTARY IMAGES setting the tone of John F. Kennedy's Presidency and the atmosphere of those tense times.1960-1963 An omniscient NARRATOR'S VOICE marches us through in old-time Pathe newsreel fashion

VOICE (1)
January, 1961 -- President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Farewell Address to the Nation -

1. EISENHOWER ADDRESS -

EISENHOWER
...The conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence -- economic, political, even spiritual, -- is felt in every city, every state house, every office of the Federal Government...In the councils of government we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military industrial complex. The potential for the disasterous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted...

2. ELECTION IMAGERY -- campaigning, the TV debates, Nixon vs. Kennedy, Mayor Daley, Kennedy victorious...Kennedy inauguration

VOICE (2)
November, 1960 -- Senator John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts wins one of the narrowest election victories in American history over the Vice-President Richard Nixon by a little more than 100,000 votes. Rumors abound that he stole the election in Illinois through the Democratic political machine of Mayor Daley...

3. BAY OF PIGS IMAGERY -- on the beach the bombardment, the rounding up of prisoners, Kennedy's public apology, Allen Dulles...

VOICE (3)
He inherits a secret war against the Communist Castro dictatorship in Cuba, a war run by the CIA and angry Cuban exiles out of bases in the Southern United States, Panama, Nicaragua and Guatemala. This war culminates in the disasterous Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961 when Kennedy apparently refuses to provide air cover for the exile brigade. Of the 1600 men who invade, 114 are killed, 1200 are captured. The Cubans and the CIA are furious with Kennedy's irresolution...Kennedy, taking public responsibility for the failure, privately claims the CIA misled him on the true nature of the operation. He vows to splinter the CIA into a thousand pieces and fires Allen Dulles, Richard Bissell, and Charles Cabell, the top leadership of the CIA.

4. SECRET WAR IMAGERY...Cuban rallies, any available footage of training camps, espionage activities, boats, cases of weapons, JM/wave at the University of Miami, Robert Kennedy...John Roselli (circa 1977 if necessary) Sam Giacana, Santos Trafficante, Richard Helms (the new CIA chief), Bill Harvey, head of ZR/RIFLE, Howard Hunt...

VOICE (4)
...The CIA, however, continues its secret war on Castro with dozens of sabotage and assassination attempts under its ZR/Rifle and MONGOOSE programs involving ties to organized crime elements such as John Roselli, Sam Giancana, and Santos Trafficante, whose casino operations in Cuba worth millions a year in income, Castro has terminated.

Staged shots of OUR CROWD PEOPLE -- looking on. Grainy images to match the Zapruder tone People on rooftops, hollering. Thru open windows, the Jail with convicts watching. The Hertz sign reading 12 30

VOICE
We'll be there in about five minutes...

A motorcycle OFFICER paralleling the Kennedy car tries to use his radio. It's jammed. The sound of the jammed dictabelt drives the rest of the sequence.

ZAPRUDER, a short middle-aged man shooting his 8 mm film from the Grassy Knoll.

On JACKIE KENNEDY -- floating on film, her voice, high soft:

JACKIE KENNEDY V.O. (staged)
And in the motorcade, you know I usually would be waving mostly to the left side and he was waving mostly to the right, which is one reason you're not looking at each other very much. And it was terribly hot. Just blinding all of us...We could see a tunnel in front of us. Everything was really slow then. And I remember thinking it would be so cool under that tunnel...

A beat on Jackie. Intercut the overpass. JFK waving...MRS. CONNALLY turning to JFK. A crazy shot, fractured, surreal POV

MRS. CONNALLY (OVER)
Mr. President, you can't say that Dallas doesn't love you.

JFK (OVER)
No, you certainly can't

Then the SHOTS: A volley sounding like a motorcycle backfire. A GLIMPSE of a MUZZLE FLASH...smoke.

The TEXAS SCHOOL BOOK DEPOSITORY – all in line with the "official" version of events...BUT THE SCREEN (OUR SCREEN) GOES GREY as did the CBS TV first bulletins to the country.

CBS BULLETIN (FULL SCREEN)
...we interrupt this program to bring you to this flash bulletin. Three shots were fired at President Kennedy's motorcade in downtown Dallas.

Voices, under this, from everywhere colliding in confusion and horror.

VOICES
OH NO! MY GOD THEY'RE GOING TO KILL US ALL! Be still. You're going to be all right. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. WE'RE HIT! LAWSON, THIS IS KELLERMAN. WE ARE HIT. GET US TO THE HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY. PULL OUT OF THE MOTORCADE. TAKE US TO THE NEAREST HOSPITAL.

CBS BULLETIN
...the first reports say that President Kennedy has been seriously wounded by the shooting. More details just arrived. United Press say the wounds to President Kennedy perhaps could be fatal. Repeating President Kennedy has been shot by a would-be assassin in Dallas.

X (OVER)
...and that was the day Vietnam started.

CUT TO:

DOCUMENTARY FOOTAGE -- US TROOPS arriving in full force on the beaches of Danang in early 1965 ... as another era begins and our movie ends.

OVER A BLACK SCREEN WE READ:

-In 1975, VICTOR MARCHETTI, former executive assistant to the CIA's deputy director, stated that during high-level CIA meetings during the trial of 1969, CIA director RICHARD HELMS disclosed that CLAY SHAW and DAVID FERRIE had worked for the Agency, and that Mr. Helms was concerned over the fate of Shaw.

-In 1979, RICHARD HELMS, director of covert operations in 1963, admitted under oath that CLAY SHAW had Agency connections.

-CLAY SHAW died in 1974 of supposed lung cancer. No autopsy was allowed.

-In November, 1969 JIM GARRISON was re-elected to a third term as District Attorney of Orleans Parish. In June of 1971, he was arrested by Federal Agents on charges of allowing payoffs on pinball gambling by organized crime. In September of 1973, after defending himself in Federal Court, he was quickly found not guilty of charges that appear to have been framed against him. Less than six weeks later, he was narrowly defeated on a fourth bid as District Attorney. In 1978, he was elected Judge of the Louisiana State Court of Appeal in New Orleans. He was re-elected in 1988. To this date, he has brought the only public prosecution in the Kennedy killing.

-ELIZABETH, his wife, left him in 1978. Garrison remarried and divorced. He now lives in the same house he lived in with Elizabeth, who lives a block away. Their six children are grown.

DEDICATED TO THE YOUNG, IN WHOSE SPIRIT THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH MARCHES ON.

THE END